In the Claims

Kindly cancel claims 1-35 and substitute therefore the following new set of claims.

--36. An applicator for applying a member having a plurality of skin piercing microprotrusions to skin, the applicator comprising a head for applying a skin piercing force to the member, the head having a surface adapted to engage the member, the surface having a shape selected from the group consisting of convex, curved and cylindrical.

37. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the surface has a convex shape.

38. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the surface has a radius of curvature of greater than about 5 cm.

39. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the surface has a radius of curvature of greater than about 10 cm.

40. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the head is adapted to impact the member against the skin.

41. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the head is spring-loaded.

42. The applicator of claim 36, including a manually activated mechanism for impacting the member against the skin.

43. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the applicator includes a handle operatively connected to the head.

41. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the member comprises a sheet having a plurality of microprotrusions extending from a skin proximal surface or edge thereof.

42. The applicator of claim 36, wherein the microprotrusions are adapted to pierce the skin to a depth of up to about 500 μm.

43. The applicator of Claim 36, wherein the surface has a shape which approximates a curved or convex shape.

44. The applicator of Claim 43, wherein the surface has a frustum shape.

45. A method of piercing skin with a plurality of microprotrusions, comprising providing a member having a plurality of skin piercing microprotrusions extending from a body proximal surface or edge thereof, applying a skin-piercing force to a skin distal side or edge of the member with a head, the head having a surface adapted to engage the member, the surface having a shape selected from the group consisting of convex, curved and cylindrical.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the surface has a convex shape.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the surface has a radius of curvature of greater than about 5 cm.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein the surface has a radius of curvature of greater than about 10 cm.

49. The method of claim 45, wherein the head impacts the member against the skin.

50. The method of claim 45, wherein a spring causes the head to impact the member against the skin.

51. The method of claim 45, including manually activating the head to impact the member against the skin.

52. The method of claim 45, wherein the member comprises a sheet having a plurality of microprotrusions extending from a skin proximal surface or edge thereof.

53. The method of claim 45, wherein the microprotrusions are adapted to pierce the skin to a depth of up to about 500 μm.

54. The method of Claim 45, wherein the surface has a shape which approximates a curved or convex shape.

55. The method of Claim 54, wherein the surface has a frustum shape.--

Change of Inventorship

Kindly delete Patrick S.L. Wong, Peter E. Daddona, and Michael G. Zuck as inventors from this application.

Remarks

The present application is designated as a continuation of pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/208,813 filed December 9, 1998 ("parent application"). The parent application is being examined by Examiner Kay Shelborne in Art Unit 1616.